

## CITY METHODIST CHURCHES.

A VOTE IN TWO CONFERENCES TO LIMIT THEIR PRIVILEGES.

Small Congregations Choose Pastors for Themselves—A Vigorous Negation—Assignments Made by the Newark Conference.

The ninety-first session of the New York Conference was opened yesterday in the Central Methodist Church, Yonkers, by 250 ministers who, by the help of fifty ladies, sang Charles Wesley's hymn:

"Oh for a thousand tongues to sing."

Bishop Thomas Bowman presided. The Rev. Dr. Shaffer opened, and read the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah. Then the ministers joined in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Bishop Bowman arising, and standing beside a large bouquet of flowers, declared the Conference open for business. He told the assembled elders that he had noticed in the Methodist churches of late a growing disrepect for the closing services in public worship. While the doxology is being sung the people begin to put on their overcoats and overgowns. He knew of a minister who not long ago gave out a doxology and himself began immediately to put on his overcoat. "I hope," he said, "that you will set an example while the Conference is in session and drop all business when the doxology is sung."

On motion of the Rev. Valentine Buck of Westfield, a committee of one minister from each Conference district was appointed to inquire into the religious condition of the colored people in the bounds of the Conference, and to report next year's session. The Conference embraced the cities of New York, the city that lies west of an imaginary line beginning at South Ferry and running northward through Brooklyn, Manhattan, Bronx, and Richmond, to the Bowery, and Third avenue. It also covers the counties of Westchester, Dutchess, Columbia, Greene, Delaware, Ulster, and Orange, and a strip of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. W. F. Firth of the New York, the Rev. J. P. Noyes, and J. M. King were appointed a committee of three on Polygamy and Divorce. There was debate over a proposition to have a memorial of two letters to the trustees of the Conference, one to the trustees—Treasurer, L. M. Vincent, Mr. D. C. Green, and Mr. C. M. Pease—but it was voted to leave the decision to the trustees.

"How are those securities made?" asked a minister.

The Secretary replied that some of the funds are necessarily secreted so that it could not be known the nature of the security.

"It is a plaster for a big sore," said one minister after the Secretary had read the report.

The Rev. Dr. W. H. Brewster presented a resolution setting forth the crowded condition of this Conference and suggesting to the presiding Bishop that he transfer his authority to another conference to transfer to the membership of the Conference, except on the basis of an equal exchange. The system of transferring pastorate from one conference to another in New York or the New York East Conference has long been a source of complaint among the ministers. Under the established rules of the Book of Discipline, however, the presiding Bishop of the Annual Conference has the sole right to designate to what pastorate a minister shall be sent. No pastor can remain longer than three years in any one conference.

The Rev. Dr. D. H. Hannaburg said that the subject was too important to be acted on at once, but his voice was drowned by cries of "No, no!" from the floor.

In the afternoon the Rev. D. H. Hannaburg of Saugerties, N. Y., preached from the text, "Now then, we may preach the Rev. A. J. Price preached the conference sermon in the Central Church.

THE NEW YORK EAST CONFERENCE.

The thirty-third annual session of the New York East Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was opened yesterday in the large First Church, Brooklyn, Bishop Wm. C. Simpson, and the Rev. Dr. George W. Lovell, Superintendent of Schools, presiding.

The Rev. C. Williams presented resolutions relating to their preamble that owing to the recent financial difficulties of the church, the district was compelled to decline to receive many promising and excellent young men, had been forced to resign as preachers in charge, which had been a source of great vexation to them, and this state of affairs was largely due to an excess of transfers into the Conference over the transfers out of it. The resolution requested the presiding Bishop to accept or reject any transfers into the Conference unless an equal number of men of like talents and attainments were received.

The Rev. Dr. W. H. Brewster, president of the Bishop, recommended that the Conference could not receive young men educated in the church was not effective, as they were placed for the whole church, and there were places enough for them in other parts of the church.

The Rev. G. L. Taylor preached the Conference sermon in the evening.

NEW YORK EAST CONFERENCE.

The forty-fourth annual session of the Newark Conference was concluded last evening in St. Paul's Church, Jersey City. Just before the adjournment, Bishop Harris read the following resolutions concerning changes and appointments for the ensuing year:

Norfolk District.—J. H. Kneller, Presiding Elder; A. R. Grinnell, Bishop; C. A. Withington, Superintendent of Schools; W. M. E. Church, Bishop of Bedford Avenue, and Wm. M. E. Church, Bishop, Brooklyn, Bishop Wm. C. Simpson, and the Rev. Dr. George W. Lovell, Superintendent of Schools.

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